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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-seventh session of the Commission/ eighteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
20-24 April 1992

REPORT OF THE THIRD EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE ECA CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

Windhoek, Namibia, 25 to 27 November 1991

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The third extraordinary meeting of the Conference of Ministers was held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 25 to 27 November 1991. It was formally opened by His Excellency Dr. Sam Nujoma, President of the Republic of Namibia. Statements were also delivered at the opening ceremony by H.E. Mr. Windsor K. Nkowani, High Commissioner for Zambia and the representative of the current chairman of the ECA Conference of Ministers, Mr. Antoine Blanca, United Nations Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, Mr. William H. Draper III, UNDP Administrator, Mr. Issa Diallo, Acting Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Ambassador B. N. Dede, Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and Mr. Milan C. Kerno, Vice-President of the African Development Bank.

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. Observers from the following States Members of the United Nations were present: Finland, France, Korea, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

4. The following United Nations bodies were represented: Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation (DIEC), United Nations Department of Technical Cooperation for Development (UNDTCD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Trade Centre (ITC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO), and the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO).

5. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) was represented.

6. Observers were present from the following intergovernmental organizations: African Development Bank (ADB), African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT), African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO), African Regional Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO), African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research (AIHTTR), African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), Commonwealth Secretariat, Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI), Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), Kagera Basin Organization (KBO), Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA) and Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS).

7. Observers were also present from the following non-governmental organizations: African Management Services Company, International League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

8. The Conference unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman:	Dr. Zedekia N'Gavirue (Namibia)
First Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Rober Tagnon (Benin)
Second Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Tchouta-Moussa (Cameroon)
First Rapporteur:	Dr. El-Sayed Doharia (Egypt)
Second Rapporteur:	Mrs. Djiga Haby (Burkina Faso)

B. AGENDA

9. The Conference unanimously adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening ceremony.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. UNDP fifth inter-country programme.
4. Any other business.
5. Adoption of the report.
6. Closure of the meeting.

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening addresses

10. His Excellency Dr. Sam Nujoma, President of the Republic of Namibia, thanked the Chairman for Namibia for his kind words of introduction. On behalf of the Government and people of Namibia the President welcomed all delegates. The opening of the Conference gave his people an opportunity to express their gratitude for the support provided by the United Nations and African States during his country's struggle for freedom, national independence and democracy. He said Namibia now looked forward to United Nations support in the final integration of the port harbour and enclave of Walvis Bay, the off-shore islands, and their inhabitants, with the rest of Namibia.

11. The Government of Namibia, he said, was preoccupied with meeting the most urgent social needs of its people in areas such as education, health services, agriculture and food supply and housing. To achieve those objectives, the Government had recognized the importance of people-centred planning and development. The Namibian Government had undertaken a series of participatory consultative planning exercises. Special attention had been paid to the formulation of national programmes of action which focused on the plight of women and children. That was in line with the need to recognize the potential of women and children in the development of the African continent. The President also stressed the need to utilize the full economic potential of the private sector. For that purpose, the public sector must plan and develop services that would enhance private sector activities.

12. He was encouraged to note the significance that the Fifth Inter-country Programme had placed on national long-term strategic planning, since that was to strengthen the management planning tools and policy analysis systems of African countries. He made reference to the cluster meetings cited in the programme document, from which lessons could be drawn on how to rationalize economic integration and cooperation within the African region.

13. He said that the achievement of unity was of utmost importance if the African Economic Community was to make a difference on the world scene. That unity could only come about through a strong sense of political commitment. The case for such political commitment was strongest for Southern Africa, which had long experience of discriminatory policies.

14. The President noted that Namibia had been accorded the responsibility to coordinate the maritime fisheries sector in Southern Africa. The environment and resources contained in that sector required the attention of the United Nations institutions concerned, including ECA, as well as the OAU and African planning ministries. Conservation policies had to be developed to safeguard Africa's maritime resources.

15. In conclusion, he observed that the agenda before this session involved important economic reform measures that African Governments must take, and outlined the complementary actions to be taken by their international partners. Such reform measures would create a new more constructive environment for socio-economic development.

16. He then declared the meeting open.

17. In his introductory remarks, the Ambassador of Zambia to Namibia, speaking on behalf of the Chairman of the ECA Conference of Ministers, expressed sincere thanks to the President of the Republic of Namibia for hosting the meeting, and for the warm welcome accorded to all.

18. He noted that the UNDP Fifth Programme had given priority to regional economic cooperation, long-term strategic development and the fostering of an enabling environment for human development. That programme was based on an orientation paper endorsed earlier by the twenty-sixth session of the Commission/seventeenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic Development and Planning.

19. He said that the purpose of the extraordinary session was to consider the endorsement of the proposed UNDP Fifth Inter-country Programme for Africa. The consideration would be made after a critical examination of the following key issues: (a) the level of resources earmarked for the programme; (b) the need to ensure an efficient distribution of scarce resources so that there would be a significant impact on Africa's development; (c) the manner in which the programme could promote and encourage accelerated economic cooperation and integration among African countries; and (d) the desirability of seeing that the transfer of responsibility for development to individual recipient countries would take into account the importance of the regional dimension to Africa's development. That, he stressed, was of particular relevance in the present build-up of regional "economic blocs". He considered that ECA should play a leading role in the harmonization and coordination of multinational and multisectoral programmes, and that member States should be encouraged and supported in building linkages between their country programme, and subregional and regional programmes.

20. In conclusion, he stressed the need for close collaboration among Africa's development partners, and effective economic cooperation among member States, so that Africa's economic development aspirations could be realized. In that respect, a favourable political environment was highly desirable, and actions to promote such an environment should be encouraged. He urged the international community to support Africa's development efforts.

21. The United Nations Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation expressed thanks and gratitude to His Excellency Dr. Sam Nujoma, President of the Republic of Namibia, and to the Government and people of Namibia for the welcome accorded to him. He congratulated the UNDP Administrator and the Acting Executive Secretary of ECA for the initiative they had taken jointly in organizing the ECA extraordinary session, and the subsequent meetings between the African Ministers responsible for Economic Development and Planning, UNDP Resident Representatives and agency representatives.

22. He said that the present reduction of international tension would open an international climate of peace favourable to greater democracy and stronger economic growth. However, that reduction could also lead to a diminution in the special measures which presently benefitted the developing countries. He referred

particularly to the volume of official development assistance which had on occasion been granted during the cold war by the two blocs for the purpose of winning the allegiance of such countries. Nevertheless, the end of the cold war could open up new possibilities for the strengthening of economic cooperation.

23. In that connection, he mentioned the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation for Development, and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, which, when adopted by the General Assembly, had established guidelines for international economic cooperation, and for national and international policies intended to accelerate the growth of the developing countries in the 1990s. However, there was still a need for the international community as a whole to commit itself resolutely to the struggle against the underlying causes of poverty.

24. Development strategies for Africa needed to be conceived in a long-term perspective. However, results needed to be achieved in the short term if many African economies were to survive. They needed to be based on sound macro-economic policies which took into account the human resources dimension, and centred on the basic needs of the people as they had been stated in the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation.

25. He expressed disquiet at seeing that, globally and in real terms, the growth rate of resources available for development activities remained well below what it should be. He called upon the international community to take urgent and large-scale concerted action to halt and reverse the negative trend.

26. The alarming situation of the African economy still remained the greatest priority for the 1990s. He informed the Conference that a "New Agenda for Cooperation with Africa in the 1990s" had been submitted to the present session of the General Assembly. If adopted, the agenda would be an expression of the determination of the international community to fight side-by-side with Africa in the battle against underdevelopment, and to take up the major challenges confronting the continent. But Africa's first battle had to be fought by Africans themselves. It must respond to the aspirations of the people, encourage democratization and foster good management of the national economy. Those factors were vital for economic growth, and political and social progress. The marginalization of Africa had to be avoided at all costs. Africans should participate more than ever, and in much more dynamic fashion, in world affairs, so as to defend their interests in negotiations on the continent's key development problems, of debt, and international trade and commodity prices. He stressed the need for African countries to formulate a common position in the preparations for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

27. He noted that the three priority areas of concentration of the UNDP regional programme corresponded closely to the objectives set for the African Economic Community. He assured the Conference that, for its part, the United Nations system was ready to work with the African countries in its efforts to reestablish equity and social justice, stability and peace, based upon a more dynamic and healthier African economy.

28. In his statement, the Administrator of UNDP said that the United Nations, and in particular the United Nations Development Programme, had been privileged to play a role in Namibia's long struggle for political freedom. He thanked the Government of Namibia for hosting the ECA session and subsequent UNDP meetings at a time when critical changes were taking place in the world, in Africa, and in Southern Africa in particular. He stressed UNDP's commitment to helping Namibia achieve the humanistic and economic goals of the Government.

29. He recalled UNDP's close involvement in the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity which ratified the establishment of the African Economic Community. He expressed the hope that South Africa, if accepted as a member of the OAU, could play a dynamic role in strengthening the Community. A speedy and just resolution of the conflicts which have claimed lives and

sapped that country's development capacity would speed the movement toward multiracial democracy in South Africa.

30. The challenge of economic transformation and sustainable development which Africa faced was enormous. UNDP would do all it could to help countries alleviate the human distress that often accompanied structural adjustment programmes, and to develop the long-term strategies needed for sustainable growth. UNDP was supporting African Governments in the development of national long-term perspective studies, and was funding an African foundation to strengthen the capacities of countries to formulate policies and manage their economies. The Social Dimension of Adjustment Programme of UNDP also helped those hurt by structural adjustment reforms.

31. He recalled the Cluster Meetings of Planning Ministers in July 1991, which discussed the key impact of the HIV/AIDS infection and maternal mortality. AIDS had become not only a health problem, but also the most serious threat to development in Africa.

32. He said that Africa was UNDP's number one priority. In 1990 the UNDP Governing Council had agreed that 55 per cent of UNDP's core resources would go to the least-developed countries. This had resulted in Africa receiving a larger share of resources than other regions. Through round-table meetings, UNDP had also helped governments to mobilize additional funds for development from donors.

33. He said that UNDP itself was also changing, as it pursued the goal of increasing the effectiveness of its assistance. Most significant in this process of change was the fact that UNDP had deepened its own sense of purpose and commitment to human development.

34. In conclusion, he said that he was confident that the bold political and economic reforms being embraced by African peoples and their governments, would be nourished by good governance, political pluralism, transparency in national administration and accountability to those who were being governed.

35. The Acting Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa expressed thanks and gratitude to the Government and people of Namibia for the excellent conference facilities and the hospitality given to all participants since their arrival. He assured the Conference of his readiness to serve the Commission to the best of his ability for the advancement of the African peoples and the socio-economic development of the continent.

36. He thanked the UNDP Administrator and his colleagues, who had spared no effort to establish and maintain a continuous process of consultations on the development of the Programme. This had particularly been the case with ECA, which had a duty to define regional policies and strategies, and to coordinate all issues in the United Nations related to general economic and social development for Africa. He appreciated the fact that the draft regional programme was the result of discussion with all socio-economic groups and development institutions interested in the economic integration of the continent. ECA was equally committed to strengthening its cooperation with UNDP, with a view to promoting the rapid recovery and development of the region. In this connection, he informed the Conference that ECA was engaged in a critical assessment of it mandate and operations, which included an assessment of its relations with UNDP, all other United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations.

37. He said that ECA had participated actively in the preparation of the orientation paper, around which the Fifth Programme was modeled. In addition to providing an intellectual input into the orientation paper, ECA had been requested to submit a strategy paper in respect of the areas of activity falling within its mandate and responsibilities. The strategy paper was, inter alia, expected to indicate the nature of the African economic crisis, to assist in identifying the root causes of the crisis, and to recommend suitable solutions.

38. The 1980s were in many ways a depressing decade for Africa. The poor economic performance of the African economies had plunged them into serious debt-servicing problems. The seriousness of the situation was clearly demonstrated by a rapid increase in the number of African LDCs from 21 to 29 countries.

39. He feared that the unfavourable socio-economic conditions would persist in the 1990s and pose formidable problems and challenges to the African countries and their development partners. Therefore, he invited the extraordinary meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers to review and confirm the continued relevance and suitability of the three priority areas contained in the Fifth Programme. In that regard, he called upon the Conference to consider the question of how the programme and the resources available to it could best be utilized to accelerate the consolidation process for the African Economic Community. He said that the international community also needed to create a more supportive international environment if the programme was to achieve its objectives, and African countries were to continue to adopt reform measures.

40. In conclusion, he reiterated the serious concern of the ECA Conference of Ministers regarding the drastic reduction of the resources allocated to the Fifth Programme for Africa from $US 226.1 million to $US 181.6 million. The third extraordinary meeting should therefore address the crucial and closely related problem of financial resources required for the implementation of the Fifth Programme.

41. The OAU Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Cooperation expressed the regret of the OAU Secretary-General for not being able to attend the session. He said that the hosting of this meeting by Namibia was an indication of the country's determination to make its contribution to Africa's development. Africa was conscious of its economic problems. The region must take its economic destiny in its own hands, and move towards economic growth and sustainable development. The challenge had assumed reality in the declaration adopted by the African Heads of State and Government in July 1990, establishing an African Economic Community.

42. The OAU attached great importance to the present session, as the Fifth Programme to be adopted addressed one of the major areas of concern to the OAU, namely that of economic cooperation and integration. He noted that the programme also intended to place emphasis on science and technology for development through networking among African science and technology institutions. He expressed the hope that regional science and technology institutions such as the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT) and the African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing (ARCEDEM), would be assisted in the strengthening of their capacity to execute projects.

43. He considered that the Fifth Programme raised some questions concerning the expected impact of the programme on Africa's development. Among these were the greatly reduced amount of resources available to the programme, and the national focus of the programme at a time when the rest of the world was coalescing into regional blocs.

44. The OAU was particularly concerned about the division of Africa by UNDP into subregions. Such division worked against the creation of an African economic community. He was nevertheless pleased to see that the United Nations had responded to Africa's unified voice by electing His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister of Egypt as the next Secretary-General of the United Nations.

45. He stressed that Africa needed now, more than ever before, open, honest and accountable governments. However, that objective still had to be internalized by some African countries and, as such, its evolution would take some time. In the meantime, the attainment of socio-economic development must remain a major concern of Africa's leaders, the peoples of Africa, and African regional institutions such as the OAU, ECA and ADB.

46. The Vice-President of the African Development Bank expressed his gratitude to the Government and the people of Namibia for their hospitable welcome.

47. He noted that determined efforts to reverse the declining economies in the 1980s had not yet yielded irreversible trends of growth. However, ADB was resolved to continue to work closely with African Governments, and their regional and subregional organizations, such as the OAU and ECA in achieving that goal. ADB's commitments to project and programme financing were expected to exceed $US 3.26 billion in 1991.

48. The Bank had also undertaken a number of initiatives designed to respond to the difficult economic situation faced by regional member countries. In realizing those initiatives, the Bank had benefited from the support of UNDP under the Fourth Programme (1987-1991). He reported that during the preparations for the Fifth Programme, there had been very close collaboration between these two institutions. In that connection, in many areas, there had been a convergence of views. Most notable was the emphasis on regional integration, long-term planning for economic transformation and strategic management, fostering of human development and a stable environment, and private sector promotion. He said that he was confident that the list of joint projects to be executed by the Bank with UNDP resources under the Fifth Programme would reflect these priorities.

Draft UNDP Fifth Inter-country Programme (agenda item 3)

49. The agenda item on the Fifth Inter-country Programme was presented by the Chief, Regional Bureau for Africa, Division for Regional Programmes of UNDP. His presentation was divided into four sections, namely: (a) background; (b) content of the Fifth Inter-country Programme; (c) implementation modalities; and (d) financial resources.

50. In summarizing the background to the document containing the Fifth Programme, he informed the meeting that the draft programme before the meeting was derived from the Advisory Note which was prepared in close collaboration with ECA, the United Nations specialized agencies and African economic integration intergovernmental organizations. It was also presented for discussion in February 1991 at an inter/agency intergovernmental organizations meeting as well as at the meeting of ECA Ministers of Planning in May 1991 which endorsed the Advisory Note. The Advisory Note took into account lessons learned in the implementation of the Fourth Programming Cycle and the Lagos Plan of Action as well as developments in the 1980s particularly the difficulties experienced by African countries.

51. He informed the meeting that the constituent elements of the programme could be divided into the following broad thematic topics: (a) regional cooperation and integration, (b) long-term strategic planning; and (c) fostering human development. In terms of activities to be undertaken under the theme of regional cooperation and integration, he explained that UNDP would focus on three elements: assisting and facilitating the rationalization and harmonization of intergovernmental organizations and their activities; assisting in the establishment of an African Economic Community based on the viability and strength of existing intergovernmental organizations; provision of assistance to key sectors with intrinsic integrative characteristics. In this connection, integration would be focused on agriculture, food self-sufficiency and security, trade and finance, industry on the basis of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA II), science and technology, transport and communications.

52. With regard to the second theme on long-term strategic planning, the meeting was informed that the issues to be addressed under this theme included: (a) facilitating the development of human resources and institutional capacities and capabilities for strategic planning, macroeconomic analysis, structural adjustment, management and continuous training capacities; and (b) management of natural resources and the environment. The third theme of fostering an enabling environment for human development encompassed issues of education for all within the framework of the proposals from the Jomtien Conference, health,

HIV/AIDS epidemic, Women in Development, facilitating the participation of the private sector and non-governmental organizations in the development process, promotion of employment and poverty alleviation.

53. On the modalities for the implementation of the programme, he stressed that the focus would be on national execution with a variety of players assuming more active participation. Intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, national institutions and governments would be used in the execution and implementation of the programme with a view to developing the sense of ownership of the programme by the participants. There would be more decentralization away from headquarters to the resident representatives and other field representatives.

54. On the question of financial resources, the UNDP representative informed the meeting that 50 per cent of the total UNDP resources were directed to the Africa region, particularly the sub-Saharan subregion. All UNDP regional programmes had their budget allocations reduced in order to increase allocations to the least developed countries, most of which were in Africa. African countries and their development partners must face the challenges of raising additional financial resources in order to alleviate the adverse impact of financial constraints during the Fifth Programme. For example, the establishment of linkages between national and regional programmes/projects would increase the return on each dollar. Concerted efforts to raise funds by all agencies might result in additional funds for both national and regional activities. The utilization of experts as a result of technical cooperation among developing countries, the utilization of United Nations Volunteers, etc., might enhance cost effectiveness.

55. In the discussions that followed, a number of issues and concerns were raised. It was suggested that the role of governments in the conceptualization, formulation, design and implementation of the regional programme should be greatly enhanced. It was stressed that meaningful participation/involvement of African Governments would ensure that the UNDP-funded programmes became part and parcel of their own national development efforts. The question of the amount of financial resources by UNDP and their allocation among the different activities was raised. It was pointed out that consultations with some governments, intergovernmental organizations and agencies as well as evaluation of past and ongoing regional projects had been used as a basis for the indicative allocation of funds.

56. The need and importance of promoting cooperation between North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa as well as among institutions and organizations involved in African development was highlighted and noted. Instances of cooperation were cited in reply. A query was raised that the programme had omitted some important problems such as external indebtedness, dependence on primary commodities and the need for employment- and income-generating activities. It was explained that almost all issues had been mentioned although coverage was not extensive due to limits imposed on the size of the document. Women in Development (WID) and other issues were also already included.

57. Because of the limited financial resources, the meeting noted the need to select top priority programmes and that many very important programmes could not therefore receive financial assistance.

58. Some of the issues that needed attention included demographic and population activities, mid-term monitoring of the programme, measures for introducing internal efficiency and management, mobilization of additional resources, and the need to give special attention to unique economic groupings such as island countries, river and lake basins.

General debate

59. The representative of Cameroon expressed his thanks to the Government and people of Namibia.

60. He was concerned as to whether the Fifth Programme could make sufficient impact on Africa's development. The issue of governance, he believed, was outside the scope of UNDP. The programme

needed to address the issues of commodity trading and debt financing more specifically, since those were issues crucial to Africa's economic recovery and development.

61. Africa's economic development needed to be based not only on regional cooperation, but must also identify international trade that it could enter with advantage. He drew attention to the experience of Korea, which had built its economic strength from international trading. The Fifth Programme could also build into its activities projects that would promote African's integration into the international trading world. He suggested that a chapter be added in the Fifth Programme on external trade.

62. The representative of Zambia expressed the need for a periodic review of the impact of the Fifth Programme. That was a necessary component in assessing the importance of the programme to Africa. He proposed a mid-term review of the programme to determine whether its direction and resources were adequate. Such a review would provide a basis for taking corrective actions. The budget of the Fifth Programme should be revised to allow for the additional cost of the review exercise. A time-table for the review should also be provided to the African Ministers responsible for Economic Development and Planning. He therefore proposed that the session consider the adoption of a resolution on the matter.

63. The representative of Mauritius considered that the objectives and priorities defined in the UNDP Fifth Programme correctly reflected the concerns of his Government. The initiative taken to include democracy as a key variable conducive to sustainable development, accountability and greater transparency in national affairs, was to be encouraged.

64. However, he said that one of the shortcomings of the programme seemed to be the lack of firm commitment to the private sector, a major contributor for the creation of wealth and employment. The African countries should step up their efforts aimed at achieving greater understanding of Africa's peculiar situation by the international community. Therefore, the emphasis on international cooperation was welcome. Projects of subregional institutions including those of the Indian Ocean Commission should figure prominently under the Fifth Programme.

65. The representative of the Gambia reminded the meeting that the Gambia was among the first of the African multi-party democracies. He requested that governments and intergovernmental organizations should work closely together to ensure sound management of the limited resources allocated to the Fifth Programme. He recommended that UNDP clearly spell out the course of action set up for the implementation of the programme.

66. The representative of Sao Tome and Principe appealed to UNDP to take into account the particular problems of countries such as his own. He expressed regret at the reduction of resources under the Fifth Programme and exhorted UNDP to allocate those resources available to the priority areas identified by the African Governments, namely regional cooperation, transport and communications and human resources development.

67. The representative of Benin requested that the Fifth Programme include activities aimed at addressing Africa's deteriorating terms of trade. He said Africa could not afford to be closed in, but instead should be opened up to international trade and economic relationship. The trade imbalance presently effecting Africa's economic growth also needed to be addressed. Integration as a concept had to be well defined, and areas with integrative possibilities explored. He gave examples of issues such as population growth, family planning and demographic concerns in which the integrative approach could be utilized. Demographic issues should therefore be reflected in the programme.

68. The representative of Mali expressed her thanks to the Namibian authorities for their efforts to facilitate the participation of delegations to this present meeting. She expressed concern at the reduced level of resources allocated for the Fifth Programme and appealed to the donor community to increase them. She

considered that resources allocated for studies might not be used effectively, since such studies were often not exploited. Lessons could instead be drawn from the past 30 years of Africa's development.

69. She said that UNDP should not involve itself in politics. Rather, it should be concerned with the efficient utilization of resources, especially those allocated to field projects. She underscored the need for African Governments and the international community to fully and effectively integrate women into the development process.

70. The representative of Morocco observed that almost all the African countries had accepted structural adjustment programmes (SAPs). But the social cost of those SAPs was too high, despite the Social Dimension of Adjustment Programme initiated by the World Bank. He recommended that the scope of that programme be broadened to include all the social sectors. Employment issues in the Perspectives to the Year 2000 and Beyond should be given greater attention since they were the most important challenges facing Africa. He also stressed priority areas such as long-term strategic planning, sustainable development and the environment. He called for greater cooperation between UNDP and ADB in order to implement the important priorities of the Bank concerning the analysis of projects of small- and medium-scale enterprises and training.

71. He said that the democratization process in Africa should be strengthened through decentralization. There should be a transfer of powers to local authorities and a greater popular participation, especially that of women in the development process.

72. In conclusion, he urged the Governing Council of UNDP to increase the level of the resources allocated to the Fifth Programme. He called for closer relations between the Regional Bureau for Africa and the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States and European Programmes, in order to take advantage of the possibilities for cooperation developed between North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa.

73. The representative of Uganda endorsed the objectives and the three priority areas proposed in the Fifth Programme. Those he said were consistent with the aims of ECA, the OAU and the Eastern and Southern Africa intergovernmental organizations.

74. He however observed that there was a lack of adequate involvement by governments, individually or collectively in the design and identification of cultural projects in support of the Programme. He envisaged shortcomings in the programme as a result of that oversight and recommended that corrective measures be taken. He suggested that the Fifth Programme explore ways to make governments more involved and responsible for programmes at the country and inter-country levels.

75. In conclusion, he recommended that the document on the programme clarify the criteria used in determining the spread of resources.

76. The representative of Swaziland expressed his satisfaction with the document on the Fifth Programme for Africa (1992-1996). He noted however that the document was raising problems which were relevant to Africa and had proposed practical solutions to those problems. He further endorsed the importance that the document attached to the integration of women in development and requested that this issue be given proper financial and technical assistance, and also be accorded the priority it deserved.

77. He registered concern on the reduction of inter-country resources for the Fifth Programme. The number of programmes proposed in the programme was large, and the resources allocated to them was not adequate. He cautioned the meeting on the lessons of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD), which had not succeeded mainly because of an inadequate resource situation.

78. He further observed the importance of involving resident representatives in the formulation of programmes and the importance of submitting progress reports on the programmes to the countries concerned.

79. The representative of Guinea-Bissau endorsed the concept of economic cooperation and integration outlined in the programme. However, there was need to create structures which could enhance the integration of various sectors within each country. He highlighted the important role played by trade in the promotion of African economic integration. With regard to human development, he said that emphasis should be placed on the utilization of reliable demographic variables, with special reference to the vulnerable groups. Finally, national mechanisms were required to monitor the implementation of activities implemented under individual country programmes.

80. The representative of Botswana drew the attention of the meeting to the lack of a scientific and technological base in Africa, which he said was one of the major factors in Africa's economic decline. He cited Korea as a country that had used a strong scientific and technological base for its socio-economic take-off. He said that Africa should learn from the Korean experience.

81. He also noted the correlation between a well-developed human resource base, and scientific and technological development. He said that Africa's human resources capabilities needed to be strengthened if it was to contribute effectively to Africa's scientific and technological advancement. He suggested that the Fifth Inter-country Programme should seriously address that issue and that adequate resources be programmed for activities in that area.

82. The representative of Senegal commended UNDP for the approach and preparation of the programme, and the choice of the areas of concentration. However, the low level of financial resources called for more focus in the activities planned by UNDP under the Fifth Programme. He recommended that UNDP should concentrate a considerable part of regional programme resources on economic cooperation and integration and that support should be given to the river and lake basin organizations. He then requested that the national indicative planning figures be used to support the Fifth Programme and help in the financing of regional and subregional activities.

83. The representative of Burkina Faso observed that innovative measures had been taken in the design of the programme. Those, she said, were in line with the policy measures presently being adopted in her own country.

84. She requested UNDP to consider at least maintaining funding at the same level as the Fourth Programming Cycle if the level could not be increased. She underscored the importance of women to Africa's development and called on African Governments to consciously integrate women in their development plans. The international agencies should also reflect the importance of women in their programmes.

85. The representative of Chad, drawing a lesson from the Fourth Programming Cycle, said that there was need to reduce the areas of intervention and the number of programmes and projects. He noted that that lesson should be taken into account in the design of subprogrammes and projects under the Fifth Programme. He called for the strengthening and acceleration of the economic cooperation and integration process. In this regard, he proposed that the resources be fully earmarked for that priority area, and particular emphasis should also be placed on the organizations for the management of rivers and lake basins.

86. The representative of Rwanda stressed the critical aspects to be considered while examining the draft Fifth Programme. One of those was the human dimension, especially the reduction of resource flows, which indeed would jeopardize human development-related activities such as training. He expressed concern about the decision of UNDP not to maximize the expertise of national civil servants in UNDP-funded projects.

87. He called for an increase in the level of the financial resources in order to solve problems which would hinder the integration process. He particularly mentioned the refugee issue, the movement of persons across borders, promotion of intra-African trade and external debt. Finally, he called for the restructuring of African trade patterns.

88. The representative of the Sudan endorsed the Fifth Programme especially in the area of long-term strategic planning, which for a long time had been marginalized.

89. He underscored the importance of fostering human development and emphasized that it should be given the highest priority, particularly in the areas of education and training.

90. He expressed his concern over the carryover of $US 40 million which he said was an indication of a low rate of delivery.

91. UNDP, he said, had expressed its desire to improve on management arrangements, to which it had invited comment. In response to that desire, he proposed that (a) national execution should be significantly expanded, (b) cost effectiveness should be maintained by an increase in the use of the services of national experts and consultants, and (c) decentralization from New York to the Resident Representatives should be implemented so as to allow a more prompt and effective execution of the programme.

92. The representative of Cape Verde approved of the areas of concentration chosen for the Fifth Programme. He stated, however, that the individual subprogrammes did not clearly reflect the interdependence and cohesion expected in the implementation of the programme.

93. Regarding economic cooperation and integration, certain key factors needed to be taken into account. They included the need to develop appropriate and relevant development information systems. He requested that modalities for the implementation and management of the programme be identified and that the budget should respond to the increased demands coming from African countries. Long-term strategic planning and the creation of an enabling environment for human resources development were priority areas which would assist in the improvement of the environment and the quality of life of the peoples of Africa.

94. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania said that, under regional cooperation and integration, transport, communications and industry should be given highest priority as they enhanced self-reliance and self-sustainable development. He also noted that under long-term strategic planning, UNDP should minimize procedural issues which delay the start-up of programmes and adhere to the time-table leading to the approval of the Fifth Programme, thereby preventing delays experienced in the Fourth Programming Cycle. UNDP should minimize the extensive use of external consultancy so as to reduce costly outflows of technical assistance resources. The establishment of new structures in UNDP-supported programmes should be avoided, and support should be focused primarily on enhancing the policy and operational capacities of existing national institutions in order to build self-sustaining capacities for planning and management.

95. The representative expressed his concern over the low level of resources which he described as nominal in real terms and he hoped this did not call for questioning the priorities which had been articulated in the Fifth Programme.

96. He observed that population growth should not be regarded as the cause for underdevelopment and stagnation; indeed, the situation was the other way round. In that context, he believed the strategy contained in programmes to obtain the goals of the "Child in the 1990s" to be the most feasible way of addressing population growth.

97. He observed that science and technology and the creation of employment were essential prerequisites for programmes aimed at enhancing human resources development. In that context, Tanzania supported ILO's proposed skill development for self-reliant projects, which in his estimation offered solutions to unemployment and also promoted output and income.

98. The representative of Burundi considered that the orientation and the programmes contained in the Fifth Programme were satisfactory. He however underscored the necessity for coordination between UNDP programmes and other national programmes being implemented or under preparation.

99. Burundi was an agricultural country with a rural population in which women played an essential role. The representative stressed that the programme should accordingly take into account the importance of women in development.

100. The representative of the Congo was of the opinion that the Fifth Programme covered the main preoccupations of African countries. However, he was concerned by the drastic reduction of resources in the Fifth Programme at a time when most African countries were faced with worsening problems. He also urged a pragmatic approach to issues of cooperation and integration, and the avoidance of marginalization of national structures in the implementation of projects.

101. The representative of Guinea presented the regrets of his Minister of Planning who, though he had personally wanted to come and share his ideas on the pressing items of the agenda, had not been able to make the journey. Speaking on the Fifth Programme, he said that his delegation approved its content as it covered the priority areas of regional cooperation and human development. However, he thought that the programme raised as many concerns as it raised hopes. Hopes were raised by its quality, but worries were caused by the reduction of resources allocated to Africa in its crisis. This was happening at a time when the international community was making important financial commitments in favour of the USSR and Eastern Europe. In order to avert another failure of the present programme for Africa, he appealed to UNDP to consider the possibility of increasing its financial contribution. Resources should be earmarked for regional cooperation which should be about 50 per cent of the total. He expressed his delegation's wish that the programme to be implemented in 1992-1996 should be subjected to an efficient and more concrete evaluation than the previous one.

102. The representative of the Comoros noted with regret that his country was not mentioned among African countries in which democracy existed. He said that in fact during the last one and half years Comoros had been enjoying pluralist democracy in which 17 political parties belonging to all persuasions could be found. Comoros was a member of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and PTA, and because of that he associated himself with the representative of Mauritius to appeal for support to these two institutions.

103. The representative of the Central African Republic expressed the wish of his delegation to see the present amount of the "non-programmed reserve" increased from $US 14,160,000 to at least $US 30,000,000. He proposed that increase because of the potential occurence of natural disasters. He stressed the need to support subregional training institutes and to make project approval mechanisms flexible in order to make them rapidly operational.

104. He supported the representative of Cameroon, who had said that UNDP should not interfere with governments. It should let each country move to democracy according to its own pace. The representative of the Central African Republic stressed that the UNDP Resident Representatives were highly valued in development and express the wish that their power should be increased so that they could be more efficient.

105. The representative of the Niger observed that the Fifth Programme needed to focus on fewer activities in order to make an efficient use of the meagre resources available. He requested UNDP to give

priority to the development of river and lake basin organizations. He said that there was a need to put in place, within the framework of the Fifth Programme, effective mechanisms aimed at monitoring, and evaluating the programme and subprogrammes and defining the respective role of the development partners.

106. The representative of Mauritania endorsed the priority areas of concentration outlined in the Fifth Programme. However, he felt that it would be necessary to ensure that the resources were adequately allocated to priority areas which would improve Africa's image before the international community.

107. Issues related to desertification and the deterioration of the environment deserved greater attention. More resources should be earmarked for the implementation of projects in the subprogramme on transport and communications. He called for the enhancement of Africa's productivity and improvement in its capacity to export internationally.

108. The representative of Nigeria called upon UNDP to assist in the formulation and financing of sound preventive programmes against AIDS. Reviewing the three areas of concentration of the Fifth Programme, he underscored the need to strengthen the existing subregional economic groups through capacity building and allocation of further resources earmarked under the Fifth Programme.

109. The representative of Kenya endorsed the themes of the Fifth Programme. However, he expressed his concern that the programme might run into the same problems as UN-PAAERD. He therefore proposed the adoption of specific operational goals which would be clearly focused and would involve quantifiable measurements.

110. He suggested that the programme should address issues of growth performance, population management, environment, research, and science and technology.

111. He stressed the importance of long-term strategic planning. He also elaborated on the need for the Fifth Programme to address the issues of science and technology development.

112. The representative of Togo said that his country had been engaged for more than a year in a major democratization process. He said that the orientations of the Fifth Programme met the preoccupations of the Government of Togo. However, he requested UNDP to focus its assistance only to the promotion of subregional and regional economic cooperation and integration, and the enhancement of human resources development. He urged UNDP to reconsider its technical assistance programme with a view to encouraging the utilization of national expertise.

113. The representative of Côte d'Ivoire said that the international community should continue to consider Africa as its first priority. Africa should be assisted in its developmental effort and should not be marginalized. In that connection, the resource flows towards the continent must be increased. The UNDP Administrator should redouble his efforts and should be supported by the ECA Conference of Ministers.

114. The African debt remained a major obstacle to the economic recovery of the region. Structural adjustment efforts made by the people were being annulled by the debt burden. Strong actions were required, which could include the reduction of debt and its cancellation. He stated that African countries needed to play a greater role in international trade. The deterioration of commodity prices hampered all development endeavours. Immediate actions were therefore necessary in order to reverse the trend. The inter-country programme should address the essential problems related to the development of the continent. Africa should pursue the reforms already initiated in all areas. He supported the priority areas proposed, namely subregional and regional economic cooperation and integration of long-term strategic vertification and human resources development as well as allocation of resources to those areas of activity. However, there was a need to increase the role played by countries in the choice of actions. Representatives of Governments and subregional organizations should play a greater role in the examination and adoption of

projects under the Fifth Programme. They would also review the mechanisms to be set up for monitoring and evaluation. He requested ECA to convene an extraordinary meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers aimed at examining the projects formulated under the Fifth Programme. He also requested that an increased role should be played by ECA especially in the areas of policy coordination and implementation of the regional component of the programme.

115. The representative of Egypt described the Fifth Programme as comprehensive and rather ambitious in view of its duration and the available resources.

116. He said that there was a need to plan out the detailed objectives of the subprogrammes financially and timewise. The phasing of detailed objectives he said could be done under the umbrella of strategic long-term planning for sustained economic development and integration in Africa.

117. He observed that the implementation of structural adjustment policies and programmes had distressed African economies and brought about economic and social burdens. The Fifth Programme should help in alleviating some of those burdens. Projects that help create jobs, increase labour force mobility, enhancement of women's participation in economic activities, were necessary.

118. He stressed the importance and need for more sustainable integrative mechanisms that would create necessary linkages at the policy level and at inter-sectoral and regional levels.

119. He emphasized that the attainment of an effective integrative mechanism called for a comprehensive and reliable data base which he regarded as a basic requirement for successful policy formulation and implementation.

120. The representative of Liberia said that she was pleased with the coverage of the concerns addressed by the Fifth Programme, particularly the role of women in development. She went on to underscore the role of women in Africa's development.

121. She stated that human resources development and science and technology, particularly appropriate technologies, were serious problems confronting Liberia.

122. She underscored the role of the private sector in Africa's development, particularly in the case of Liberia. She proposed strong inter-country or regional cooperation in that area and suggested that programmes be developed in support of private sector promotion.

123. She called on the Administrator of UNDP to do everything possible to increase resources for the Fifth Programme as the limitation in resources in itself would cause serious constraints on the programme.

124. She stressed the need for coordination and cooperation between and among United Nations agencies, African intergovernmental organizations, and international institutions. She proposed that mechanisms be built in for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Fifth Programme.

125. The Lesotho representative endorsed the draft Fifth Programme whose contents are embodied in the development agenda of Lesotho and urged that the final programme document explicitly flag out from the subprogrammes the important areas of concentration like the terms of trade of African exports, women in development, conflicts and emergencies and employment generation.

126. He hoped the UNDP regional resources will be channelled to assist the Southern Africa group of countries which will face common constraints and problems as a result of the negative impact of post-apartheid South Africa.

127. He further proposed that UNDP look into the possibility of strengthening subregional economic integration by extending the round-table conference process to cover not only individual countries but also the subregional grouping of countries and the intergovernmental organizations in such subregions. The first subregional round-table conference could cover the migrant workers retrenchments and the social repercussions.

128. The observer for UNESCO endorsed the UNDP Inter-country Programme and gave suggestions covering (a) the need to effectively use existing structures and platforms of inter-country, and regional co-operation; (b) the need to build on ongoing institutions; (c) the need to ensure complementarity between country level initiatives already underway and the inter-country programme activities; (d) the need to ensure effective contacts and dialogues between the main actors in subprogramme C (human development); and (e) the need to make every effort to identify or design affordable alternatives and solutions.

129. The observer for WMO expressed his organization's desire to participate in the implementation of the Fifth Programme for Africa and its support to the objectives and priorities of the programme, in particular those related to the environment, food and agriculture, drought and desertification, water resources and human resources development.

130. WMO, he stated, was interested in the development of projects at the subregional level. He further stated that WMO also supported the spirit of collective participation proposed for the implementation of the Fifth Programme and would be willing to participate in the mobilization of additional resources to support the regional programme in Africa.

131. The observer for WFP outlined the objectives and work of his organization. He underlined the need for the coordination of activities among all United Nations agencies.

132. The observer for ARIPO outlined the functions of his organization. He invited governments, research and development institutions and industries in Africa to make effective use of his organization's facilities, especially its data base on patents and technology.

133. ARIPO endorsed the proposals of UNDP to use intergovernmental organizations in formulating its technical assistance programmes, and in the implementation of its programmed activities. ARIPO also indicated its support for the proposals contained in the "Implementation modalities and management arrangements" section of the document on the Fifth Programme.

134. The observer for ITC elaborated on the "Strategies for revitalization, recovery and growth of Africa's trade in the 1990s and beyond", which had been adopted in December 1990 by the Conference of African Ministers of Trade. They had, at the same time, declared the 1990s the Trade Development Decade for Africa.

135. She underlined the relevance of trade to Africa's development, and noted that the promotion of intra-African trade could best be carried out through multilateral arrangements and in the context of subregional integration groupings. Trade promotion had also to pay special attention to womens' needs, since they constituted a large percentage of Africa's traders.

136. The observer for FAO noted that many of the elements of the programme were in line with FAO's own strategy paper. He believed that improvement in agricultural trade as a growth strategy was also an important challenge for the future.

137. While FAO supported the shift to government responsibility for project execution, he expressed concern that such a strategy might prevent member States from taking advantage of the expertise and experience of the specialized agencies. He further expressed the hope that the shift would not lead to the

establishment of parallel entities, or to an expansion of project management activities of UNDP field offices, which FAO was presently prepared to carry out.

138. He hoped that FAO would soon receive a copy of the evaluation mission report on the Fourth Programming Cycle, and a recent report on the evaluation of the management capacity of selected intergovernmental organizations. FAO would be happy to be consulted on the latter document. He requested UNDP to give early indications as to when pipeline projects scheduled for 1992 might start, and hoped that a time-table of actions for making the programme operational might soon be developed.

139. The observer for WIPO provided background information on the activities of his organization in Africa. He noted that assistance could be sent from his organization for the transfer of technology for industrial development, an area in which his organization had wide and relevant experience.

140. The observer for PTA said that his organization was in general agreement with the trends, objectives and strategies of the programme. However, he stressed the need to use subregional economic groupings as building blocs in achieving African economic integration. The mechanisms for doing that were not clearly indicated in the programme and should be specified.

141. Such mechanisms might include strengthening the programme management capacity of the secretariats, improving sectoral cooperation, and supporting programmes to strengthen trade and cooperation relations between the subregional groupings.

142. He further requested UNDP to clarify how it intended to go about significantly reducing the number of intergovernmental organizations with which it would cooperate during the period of the programme. He recommended that the Governing Council designate a list of such organizations with which it would cooperate.

143. The observer for UNIDO said that his organization fully supported the Fifth Programme. UNIDO had in the past cooperated with UNDP on the analysis of strategies for industrial activities.

144. He said that there was an overlap in the life of the Fifth Programme and the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA II) and therefore expected that the Fifth Programme would make significant contributions towards the achievement of the targets set for IDDA II.

145. He stated that the areas emphasized by the Fifth Programme for addressing Africa's industrial development indeed provided a basis for planning future industrial policies.

146. The observer for ILO said that the employment issue was clearly spelled out as a priority in the Fifth Programme and was in conformity with the "Abuja Declaration" on employment adopted by the Heads of State and Government in June 1991. ILO had set up a regional system of advisory teams who provided to Africa, on an ongoing basis, information on the employment situation and assistance to governments and labour administrations. This was particularly important under conditions of structural adjustment and for purposes of medium- and long-term planning.

147. He urged that the results already achieved by previous programmes should not be threatened by the reductions in the regional programme.

148. The observer for ICAO drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that African economic integration called for a better system of telecommunications and transport. He said that the nature of surface infrastructure made civil aviation a top priority, which had to be satisfied before Africa could contribute to global development. The reduction of the UNDP funds earmarked for the regional programme posed a serious problem to that sector.

149. He said that the role of ICAO was to provide training on international standards, and to provide technical assistance designed to implement such standards. However, it could not provide those services if funds were not available.

150. The observer for AIPO said that the section of the document on regional cooperation and integration was noteworthy for two reasons, namely the rationalization and harmonization of intergovernmental organizations, and assistance to essential sectors related to integration. He said that there was also a need to favour activities aiming at interagency collaboration, such as in the development of common projects. He praised the efforts of WIPO, which, with UNDP assistance, was working towards a collaborative arrangement with AIPO, ARIPO and ARCT.

151. He said that the area of intellectual property was one of the sectors where African integration had been in force for the last 30 years. He stressed that it was one of the rare African institutions in which integration was total, because it acted on behalf of, and for, member States.

152. The observer for UNICEF commended the proposed Fifth Inter-country Programme for Africa. In particular, she commended it for its focus on fostering human development, which UNICEF shared as a central concern with UNDP. The inclusion of measures to address maternal mortality and disability under that subprogramme would represent a reinforcement of efforts to move towards the Goals for Children and Development in the 1990s, which had been adopted by the World Summit for Children in New York last year. The continued efforts at "mainstreaming" the concerns of women would also be most welcome.

153. She reaffirmed that UNICEF, in collaboration with other agencies, looked forward to lending support to the implementation of the programme. She urged that the approach of participatory development stressed so eloquently by His Excellency President Nujoma in his opening address be adopted as a central strategy in efforts to reduce pregnancy-related deaths, and improve the health and skills of women as key actors and a new resource for development.

154. The observer for ARSO pointed out that the quality factor was an important criteria for promotion of intra-African trade, and enhancement of export capabilities of member States.

155. He also underlined that harmonized standards and measurement systems were essential to accelerate the economic integration process at subregional and regional levels as well as the application of science and technology in the productive sectors. Hence, it was essential that the Fifth Programme provided for the accelerated development of standardization, quality assurance and measurement systems at the regional level.

156. The observer for UNCTAD stated that the first priority "regional cooperation and integration" had the full support of his organization. He however observed that in the foreseeable future most of the resources which will be available to Africa for human development would have to come from trade and financial flows involving the rest of the world.

157. He stressed that the need to assist African countries as regards their external sectors should thus be better reflected in the regional programme and made particular reference to the need for assistance on the African community strategy to be given more prominence. Similarly, the agriculture and industry components of the programme should contain a clear recognition of the fact that these sectors cannot fully develop if problems of market access and international prices are not adequately addressed.

158. The representative for UNDRO, in a statement, supported the Fifth Programme. He stressed the pivotal role of the resident representative to ensure that the capacities of all organizations in the United Nations system are fully utilized and that there is no duplication of capacity. He further stated that he fully supported the concept of programme approach as it was linked with the need to define common national goals and objectives.

159. Commenting on the report on the "Fifth Inter-country Programme for Africa", the observer for UNDTCD agreed on the need to set up a long-term socio-economic framework to guide short-term economic policies, but said that this should be done in a balanced manner taking into account the necessity to have an interaction and externalities between the short, medium and the long terms.

160. He also raised the need to have an integrated decision-making tool to enhance planning and economic management and informed that UNDTCD was finalizing the public sector planning and management information system (PSPMIS) that would be made available to African countries. He also suggested that exchange of experience between Africa and other continents should be intensified. In that respect, he informed the meeting that UNDTCD, in cooperation with Japan and the African Development Bank would organize an interregional symposium on the subject: "Promoting accelerated development in Africa: Perspectives from the Asian experience" from 14 to 16 March 1992, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Any other business (agenda item 4)

161. There was no issue raised under this item.

Adoption of the report (agenda item 5)

162. The meeting adopted the report with some slight amendments. The amended resolution is annexed to this report.

Closure of the meeting (agenda item 6)

163. The Chairman thanked the participants for their fruitful debate and declared the third extraordinary meeting closed.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
FIFTH CYCLE INTER-COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR AFRICA, 1992-1996

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling Commission resolution 720 (XXVI) of 12 May 1991 by which the Ministers endorsed the orientation paper on the United Nations Fifth Inter-Country Programme for Africa (1992-1996) and, at the same time, expressed concern about the reduction of resources provided in that Programme for Africa,[1]

Recalling also Commission resolution 718 (XXVI) of 12 May 1991 on the Revitalization of the mandate and operational framework of the Regional Commission for Africa,[2]

Recalling further Commission resolution 708 (XXVI) of 12 May 1991 operative paragraph 4 requesting the United Nations Development Programme to provide during its Fifth Programming Cycle sufficient resources to support the economic integration process in Africa,[3]

Having considered the general framework of the draft Fifth Inter-country Programme for Africa (1992-1996) prepared by UNDP,

Considering the need to establish closer linkages between national and regional programmes so as to achieve proper complementarity and efficient utilization of scarce resources for the acceleration of the economic cooperation and integration process,

Considering the necessity and the urgency to set up a system for coordination, harmonization and follow-up of the multinational programmes,

1. Expresses its appreciation to UNDP for its continued assistance to the development of the African region;

2. Supports the draft of the fifth Inter-country Programme for Africa;

3. Expresses its concern regarding the reduction of resources available to the fifth Inter-country Programme for Africa;

4. Urges the Governing Council of UNDP to increase the level of the resources allocated to the Fifth Inter-country Programme for Africa without reducing the national IPF;

5. Calls upon the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Secretary of ECA, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the OAU and the President of ADB, to continue to give particular emphasis to the strengthening and promotion of subregional and regional economic cooperation and integration, and the implementation of multidisciplinary activities;

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[1] See E/ECA/CM.17/32.

[2] See E/ECA/CM.17/32

[3] See E/ECA/CM.17/32.

6. Urges the Administrator of UNDP, the Secretary-General of the OAU, the President of ADB, the Executive Secretary of ECA and other United Nations agencies to undertake joint activities designed to attract resources supplementary to those allocated by UNDP for the Fifth Inter-country Programme for Africa;

7. Appeals to member States to help build linkages between the individual country programmes and the Fifth Inter-country Programme by funding, as far as possible, subregional and regional multidisciplinary activities which are complementary to their national development plans through resources available under their respective indicative planning figures (IPF);

8. Appeals to donor Governments and institutions to increase the levels of their participation in the fifth Inter-country Programme and to fund regional, subregional and national projects which are complementary to those activities developed under the programme;

9. Requests the Administrator of UNDP, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of ECA, governments, other executing agencies, regional and subregional organizations, to conduct a mid-term review of the implementation of the UNDP Fifth Inter-country Programme for Africa and to make available the report thereon to all the parties concerned.